

# Chapter 16: Togo and Benin

## Togo: The Land of the Brave

Our adventure begins in Togo, a small country nestled on the Gulf of Guinea. As we enter the capital city of Lomé, we are greeted by a vibrant tapestry of colors, sounds, and smells. The streets are alive with people, and the markets are overflowing with an array of goods.

We make our way to the bustling Grand Marché, where we are surrounded by a cacophony of voices. Vendors hawk their wares, from colorful fabrics to aromatic spices. We wander through the labyrinthine alleys, soaking up the vibrant atmosphere.



## Dhaka to Dakar: Across Africa - Chapter 16: Togo and Benin

by Andrew Boland

★★★★★ 5 out of 5

Language : English  
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Text-to-Speech : Enabled  
Screen Reader : Supported  
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled  
Word Wise : Enabled  
Print length : 29 pages  
Lending : Enabled



## Benin: The Cradle of Vodun

After a few days in Togo, we cross the border into Benin. The landscape changes dramatically, as we enter a lush and verdant countryside. We drive through rolling hills, past fields of cotton and cassava.

Our first stop in Benin is the city of Ouidah, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Ouidah is known as the "Cradle of Vodun," and it is home to a number of important Vodun temples. We visit the Temple of Pythons, where we witness a fascinating ceremony involving live snakes.

### **Grand-Popo: A Slice of Paradise**

From Ouidah, we make our way to the coastal town of Grand-Popo. This serene beachside paradise is a welcome respite from the hustle and bustle of the cities. We spend our days swimming in the warm waters of the Atlantic Ocean, and our evenings enjoying the fresh seafood at the local restaurants.

### **A Cultural Tapestry**

Togo and Benin are home to a rich and diverse culture. We learn about the history of the slave trade, which had a profound impact on both countries. We also visit a number of traditional villages, where we learn about the local customs and traditions.

The people of Togo and Benin are warm and welcoming. We are invited to share meals with local families, and we are always greeted with smiles. We leave these countries with a newfound appreciation for the beauty and diversity of West Africa.

## Practical Information

If you are planning a trip to Togo and Benin, here are a few practical tips:

- The best time to visit is during the dry season, from November to April.
- Togo and Benin are visa-free for most nationalities.
- The local currency is the CFA franc.
- The official languages are French and the local languages.
- Togo and Benin are relatively safe countries to travel in, but it is always important to take precautions.

We hope that this chapter has inspired you to add Togo and Benin to your travel itinerary. These vibrant and welcoming countries offer an unforgettable adventure into the heart of West Africa.



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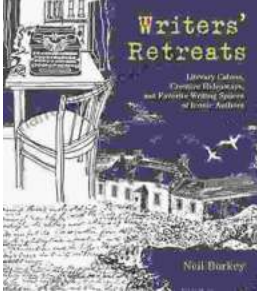
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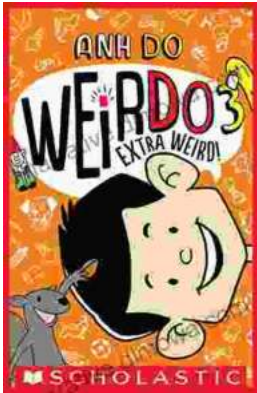
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